

NRCS-Alaska Technical Guide  
Section III  
Quality Criteria – Animals

Natural Resource Concern	Description of Concern	State Quality Criteria	Assessment Tools for Quality Criteria Evaluation
<b>ANIMALS</b>			
<b>Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Food</b>	Quantity and quality of food is unavailable to meet the life history requirements of the species or guild of species of concern	Food availability meets the life history requirements of the species or guild of species of concern.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual assessment</li> <li>• Inventory of food species</li> <li>• Aerial photo analysis</li> <li>• State Adapted Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide</li> <li>• National Biology Handbook</li> <li>• Applicable Habitat Suitability Index</li> </ul>
<b>Fish and Wildlife – Inadequate Cover/Shelter</b>	Cover/shelter for the species of concern is unavailable or inadequate. For aquatic species, this includes lack of hiding, thermal, and/or refuge cover	The ecosystem, including non organic physical structures, or habitat types support the necessary plant species in the kinds, amounts, and physical composition; and the connectivity of fish and wildlife cover is adequate to support, over time, the species of concern.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual assessment</li> <li>• Inventory of cover/shelter</li> <li>• Aerial photo analysis</li> <li>• State Adapted Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide</li> <li>• National Biology Handbook</li> <li>• Applicable habitat suitability index</li> <li>• Fish XING</li> </ul>
<b>Fish and Wildlife – Inadequate Water</b>	The quantity and quality of water is unacceptable for the species of concern	The quantity and quality of water meets the life history requirements of the species of concern.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surface water dissolved oxygen sampling and assay</li> <li>• Stream Visual Assessment Protocol</li> <li>• Habitat Suitability Index - model for target species</li> <li>• Inventory of water supplies</li> <li>• Aerial photo analysis</li> <li>• State Adapted Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide</li> <li>• National Biology Handbook</li> <li>• WQIG (water quality indicator guide)</li> </ul>

NRCS-Alaska Technical Guide  
Section III  
Quality Criteria – Animals

Natural Resource Concern	Description of Concern	State Quality Criteria	Assessment Tools for Quality Criteria Evaluation
<b>ANIMALS</b>			
<b>Fish and Wildlife – Inadequate Space</b>	Lack of area and fragmentation of areas disrupt life history requirements of the species of concern	Adequate area and connectivity of areas meet life history requirements of the species of concern. (Examples: staging areas for rest and feeding, lekking areas for breeding, migratory movement corridors)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual assessment</li> <li>• Stream Visual Assessment Protocol</li> <li>• Inventory of space/areas</li> <li>• Aerial photo analysis</li> <li>• State Adapted Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide</li> <li>• National Biology Handbook</li> <li>• Applicable habitat suitability index</li> </ul>
<b>Fish and Wildlife -Plant Community Fragmentation</b>	Natural plant communities have insufficient structure, extent, and connectivity to provide ecological functions and/or achieve management objectives.	Fish and wildlife habitat functions of connected plant communities are maintained sufficiently to support the species or guild of species of concern.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stream Visual Assessment Protocol</li> <li>• Aquatic and terrestrial habitat evaluation procedures</li> <li>• Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG)</li> </ul>
<b>Fish and Wildlife - Imbalance Among and Within Populations</b>	Populations are not in proportion to available quantities and qualities of food (plants, predator/prey), cover/shelter, water, and space and other life history requirements.	Land and water use and management are consistent with direct population management activities conducted by fish and wildlife agencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fish and wildlife agency guidance and protocols</li> </ul>

NRCS-Alaska Technical Guide  
Section III  
Quality Criteria – Animals

Natural Resource Concern	Description of Concern	State Quality Criteria	Assessment Tools for Quality Criteria Evaluation
<b>ANIMALS</b>			
<b>Fish and Wildlife - Threatened and Endangered Species</b>	Fish and wildlife populations and/or habitat quantity and quality have reached a level that one or more species are in danger of or threatened with extinction.	Threatened and endangered fish and wildlife species and/or habitats they occupy are managed to avoid actions that would reduce their current population, health, or sustainability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Client interviews</li> <li>• Inventory of presence/absence of T&amp;E species</li> <li>• General Manual, 190, Part 410</li> <li>• US Fish and Wildlife Service county endangered species lists</li> <li>• Fish and wildlife recovery plans</li> <li>• Federal and state endangered species rules and regulations</li> <li>• Consultation with appropriate federal, state, and local agencies/groups</li> <li>• Fish and wildlife agency web sites</li> <li>• Natural heritage society links to ADF&amp;G and USFWS sites</li> <li>• State T&amp;E and sensitive species list (section II FOTG)</li> <li>• USFWS identified species of concern recovery plans</li> </ul>
<b>Domestic Animals – Inadequate Quantities and Quality of Feed and Forage</b>	Total feed and forage is insufficient to meet the nutritional and production needs of the kinds and classes of livestock	Feed and forage including supplemental nutritional requirements are provided to meet production goals for the kinds and classes of livestock. Native grazers are factored into the total feed and forage balance computations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measured inventory</li> <li>• National Range and Pasture Handbook</li> <li>• Grazing Lands Application (GLA) software</li> <li>• Nutritional Balance Program (NUTBAL)</li> <li>• NIRS/Nutritional Balance Profile Program (NUTBAL Pro)</li> <li>• Forage quality laboratory analysis</li> <li>• Other State adapted forage/livestock management software and job sheets</li> </ul>

NRCS-Alaska Technical Guide  
Section III  
Quality Criteria – Animals

Natural Resource Concern	Description of Concern	State Quality Criteria	Assessment Tools for Quality Criteria Evaluation
<b>ANIMALS</b>			
<b>Domestic Animals – Inadequate Shelter</b>	Livestock are not protected sufficiently to meet the production goals for the kinds and classes of livestock	Artificial and/or natural shelter is provided to meet production goals for the kinds and classes of livestock.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual assessment</li> <li>• Inventory of facilities and their capacities</li> <li>• Aerial photo analysis</li> <li>• National Range and Pasture Handbook</li> </ul>
<b>Domestic Animals – Inadequate Stock Water</b>	The quantity, quality and distribution of drinking water is insufficient to meet the production goals for the kinds and classes of livestock	Sufficient water of acceptable quality is provided and adequately distributed to meet production goals for the kinds and classes of livestock. To reduce potential for water contamination, watering facilities are constructed or modified to minimize mortality to indigenous wildlife.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual assessment</li> <li>• Inventory of distribution needs</li> <li>• Aerial photo analysis</li> <li>• National Range and Pasture Handbook</li> </ul>
<b>Domestic Animals - Stress and Mortality</b>	Animals exhibit illness or death from disease, parasites, insects, poisonous plants, or other factors	Land and water use and management are consistent with activities conducted to alleviate stress and mortality factors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animal health/mortality alerts</li> <li>• State and local biosecurity protocols</li> <li>• State and local standards for animal disposal</li> </ul>